

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2007-159-C - ORDER NO. 2007-617
SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

IN RE: Larry P. Hudson for Property Trust,) ORDER SUSPENDING
) PROCEDURAL
Complainant/Petitioner) SCHEDULE AND
) APPOINTING HEARING
v.) OFFICER
)
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a)
AT&T South Carolina and MCI)
Communications Services d/b/a Verizon)
Business Services,)
)
Defendants/Respondents.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion to Suspend Scheduling Order and to Appoint Hearing Officer filed August 14, 2007, by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T South Carolina (AT&T) in the present complaint proceeding of Larry P. Hudson for Property Trust (Mr. Hudson) against AT&T and MCI Communications Services d/b/a Verizon Business Services (MCI). AT&T moves for this Commission to suspend the current scheduling in this docket and to appoint a hearing officer to develop a new scheduling order.

By letter of the Commission's Docketing Department, dated June 14, 2007, the dates for filing testimony in this docket were set forth, and the parties to the proceeding

were notified of such dates. According to this scheduling order, Mr. Hudson's direct testimony and exhibits were to be filed on or before August 2, 2007. AT&T moves, on the grounds that Mr. Hudson has not filed his prefiled testimony, that the present scheduling order be suspended and a hearing officer be appointed to work with the parties to establish a new prefilings and hearing schedule in order to protect the interests of all the parties.

We have examined the Motion of AT&T and find that a suspension of the current procedural schedule will protect the interests of all parties. Further, we find the appointment of a hearing officer appropriate to expedite the process of developing a new procedural schedule. Therefore, AT&T's Motion is granted.

The Commission hereby appoints B. Randall Dong, Esquire, to serve as a hearing officer. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2005).

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience. We find B. Randall Dong meets this qualification.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The current procedural schedule in the pending proceeding of Larry P. Hudson for Property Trust against BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T South Carolina and MCI Communications Services d/b/a Verizon Business Services (MCI) is hereby suspended.

2. B. Randall Dong is hereby appointed as hearing officer in this docket for disposition of procedural and evidentiary matters.

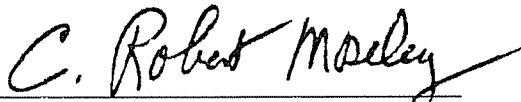
3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)